



West Virginia
Agricultural
Statistics Service

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Service

For further information contact West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service, Charleston, West Virginia 25305, or call 1 (800) 535-7088 or E-mail at nass-wv@nass.usda.gov.

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2003 WEST VIRGINIA HONEY PRODUCTION

WEST VIRGINIA -- Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 376,000 pounds, down 83,000 pounds from 2002. There were 8,000 producing colonies in 2003, down 1,000 colonies from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 47 pounds, down 4 pounds from 51 in 2002. Honey stocks on December 15, 2003, were reported at 194,000 pounds, up 43,000 pounds from the amount was reported in 2002.

Prices for the 2003 crop averaged 201 cents per pound, compared to 132 cents per pound in 2002. Value of production totaled 756,000 dollars, up 150,000 dollars from 2002.

UNITED STATES -- Honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one State were counted in each State and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

Honey Prices Record High

Honey prices increased to a record high during 2003 to 140.4 cents, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at the higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to the 2002 crop prices.

Special Note

Preliminary 2002 Census data were used in the review process for the 2003 and revised 2002 estimates included in this release. States requiring 5-year historical revisions may carry a disjointed data series from their current historical data series. Estimates for 2002 contained in the national publication will be republished in the *Honey - Final Estimates 1998-02* publication which is scheduled for release on April 29, 2004.

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West Virginia Agricultural Statistics Service
c/o State Department of Agriculture
Charleston, WV 25305